A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday December 25. 1711.

Et tu Brute!

AND Thou my Son! ſaid *Julius Cæſar*, when he ſaw the Hand of *Brutus* liſted up among the Aſſaſſinators of his Life — The Caſe of the *Diſſenters* at this Day, is Circumſtanc'd too much like this; this Mortal Stab could have been receiv'd from no Hand but that of a Friend; the *Diſſenters* in *England*, as they ſtood United in Intereſt with the Low-Church-Men, could have receiv'd no fatal Blow but by themſelves: Three Times the United Power of their Enemies had before Attack'd them, but could never prevail; but given up by their Friends, they fall of courſe; when a Bank that kept out the Tide is cut down, the Sea breaks in by meer Nature; while an Enemy lurks to cut this Bank, but the Landlord or Proprietor of the Land, watches it, the Bank is ſafe, and the Land is preſerv'd; but if the Proprietor himſelf cut the Bank, no wonder the Land is all Drown'd.

But who are theſe Banks cut by?——— Whoſe Hand has given this Blow? And who is of Strength to ſupport this Wound? Could any one ward it off? Could any one ſuſpect, that when *Jove* directed *Agamemnon* to draw out the *Greeks*, and fight the *Trojans*; they little thought it was with a

Hoſt

Resolution that they should be beaten? And that he had resolv'd that Sacrifice at the Motion, and to satisfie the Importunities of his *Prostitute, Thetis*, set on Work by *Achilles*? The *Greeks* upon this secret Treacherous Contract, were betray'd into a fruitless Assault upon *Troy*, which nothing but such a Delusion could have brought them to; our Case has much of a Parallel to this in it: None but a Friend could have given this Wound! None but the Men we Trusted! None but the Hands, on whose Aid we Depended, and in whose Fidelity we rested Secure! Who always profess'd disinterested Zeal for the *Dissenters*! The Men that had made Speeches for us, declared us to be no Schismaticks, join'd with us in abhorring the *Persecuting Attempts* of former *Occasional Bills*!—Hard Fate! That none but these could do it, and these should so easily come into so Ruinous a Step: I think I cannot be so much Misconstru'd, as to be suppos'd here Reflecting on the Proceedings of either House of Parliament; and ¶ profess this is none of my Design.

I have met with an unlucky Paper in the Town, said to be a Speech spoken by A *Stone Chimney-Piece*, which Expostulates this Matter very smartly——I know that Piece speaks as it were within Doors, I shall only allude to it therefore in my Application without Doors.

Indeed it is not so much a wonder to me that Stones should speak, when Living Pillars hold their Peace: But alas, we are not Complaining of People holding their Peace, but of speaking, *Fatal Speaking*; not of Negative Passive Friends, but Active Friends; not of not doing us the Good they should have done, but doing us the Evil they always told us they abhorr'd, and which they had been famous for their Labouring Successfully to prevent; and to this purpose, some of the Words utter'd by the *Stone Chimney-Piece* may be apply'd to those I am speaking to.

The Stone Pier among other Things, is brought in speaking to a Person of Honour; I suppose a Stone out of the Street, rising up according to the Text, and Saluting a Club of Gentlemen as they came from the ..... Tavern in this manner.

" I have not been totally deaf; I heard
" what pass'd when you sold your
" Friends, and sold them for Nought,
" for a Voice, for a single worthless
" Voice, that will desert you in the
" Matter you depend upon it for, and
" so return upon you a just Retribu-
" tion. Was this an Equivalent for
" those that had always stood by you?
" That had endur'd Mobbing Plun-
" dering, Burning, and all manner of
" Abuses for your sakes? Is it possible
" that after all this, they could be
" thus Surrender'd, without one Word
" for them? Who will depend on you
" after this? Who will move a Finger
" or a Lip in your Quarrel? Depend
" upon it, you will miss your Aim,
" you have Ruin'd your own Interest,
" and have lost the Honour of your
" former Integrity: With what Re-
" gret will you Reflect on this Days
" Action, when you shall find your
" selves the Jest of those that decoy'd
" you, and the Scorn of those that you
" have abandon'd? Think of this,
" Repent of it, tho' it is too late, for
" you can never retrieve it.

Indeed, tho' this would be an unhappy Satyr, I must grant the Moral just, how severe soever the Words—— It seems the Greatest Mystery of Politicks that this Age has been acquainted with, to what End, with what Design, and at whose Motion this Concert was made? What *Norway* Witch has rais'd this Storm? If we had been betray'd to any purpose, we might have Curs'd the Treachery, but might have less blam'd the Policy: But to be sold for no Purchase, barter'd for no Exchange, sacrifiz'd for no Advantage, given up for nothing! This is the oddest Misery that ever befel Men.

Again, to what Idol is this Dedication? To what Pagod is this Sacrifice? Is it to a Deity of some Dignity, or to a Paper Kite?

A

A Ginger-Bread Hero! An empty ſounding Vacuum! A Groaning-Board! A meer Phantome! A Nothing! A Shaddow! able to make no Return, and indeed promiſing no Return.

I am not for Aggravating Things; had it been a Sin that had admitted any Repentance, a falſe Step that might have been Retriev'd, I had ſpoke to Convince Men; but it is now all Exclamation, Admiration, and Aſtoniſhment, and as ſuch, the Extravagancies of Expreſſion are Excuſable: Never was People thus Betray'd; never was a Party-Intereſt form'd at ſuch a Price—— No Man can ſay I Reflect on the Parliament for this; none can blame the Parliament, they have not taken any Thing from us, we have given it to them our ſelves, our Friends have carried us in their Hands, and Deliver'd us up, as a Guardian does his Truſt, or a Ward his Pupil.

Quid referam, quantâ ſiccum jecur ardeat irâ,
Cum Populum gregibus comitum premat hic Spoliator
Pupilli proſtantis?——

Juv. Sat. 1. l. 45.

Nor will I call it ſold, for thoſe who they ſay this is done to oblige, Bankrupt in Party, can pay no Price, can lead no Train, nor add any Strength to the Cauſe aim'd at.

But let us Expoſtulate a little with our ſelves in this Caſe; the *Diſſenters* are thus Sacrificed, that is certain; if the End is not anſwer'd, the Fault of that may lie in the Purchaſer——But what is the End that was in View? It is as unhappy to think of that, as the reſt —— This Ruin was to be made to Tories, in order to Purchaſe them to join with us to carry on the War——— An unhappy Cauſe that requir'd ſuch a Price to Purchaſe it!— But why *the Diſſenters* to be Sacrificed for this, *who were always againſt a Peace?* Truly all that can be ſaid for this is, That the Party, they ſay, would accept no other Price — I can liken this to nothing ſo well, as to a certain Wretch that ſold his Siſter to make a W... of another Man's Daughter, while the Purchaſer ſold his Daughter to make a W..; of the other Man's Siſter.

There is nothing in the Party Buying or the Party Selling, but Treachery and Le.....y; ſelling the Innocent to buy Knavery, and buying the Bribe to ſell Juſtice; in ſhort, Reciprocal Treachery has been the Fate of theſe Contracts without Doors.

I am ſpeaking now of the New Leagues of Parties, Conſenting *without Doors*, as above, to bring the *Diſſenters* into this Miſery; as to the Parliament, no leſs could be expected, when all Parties appear'd Conſenting; therefore I do not ſay one Word to that, nor is any Thing in this Paper pointed at their Proceedings.

And is the War to be carried on at this Price? Will Heaven grant Succeſs upon a Practice form'd in Hell? Was there no other Way to put a ſtop to the Treaty with *France?* And will this do it?—If I had never been for a Treaty before, I ſhould have been for it now; for certainly whatever we Undertake after this, we have very little Cauſe to hope for a Bleſſing upon it.

Errata in the laſt *Review.*

PAGE 471. Col. 1. Line laſt but one, for *where is*, r. *where are*; pag. 472. col. 2. l. 13. for *your Majeſty with*, r. *your Majeſty on juſt Reflection will ſee how with*, &c.

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WHereas a Letter has been ſent to the Author of this Paper, Sign'd *J. Williamſon*; this is to give notice, That if the Gentleman who wrote the ſaid Letter pleaſes to ſend Word how to direct to him, he may perhaps have an Anſwer to his Satisfaction.

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